

Vehicles may be lost, but the lives of astronauts should be protected. We need answers, and I look forward to getting those answers as soon as possible.

HAMAS-LED PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, more and more information is emerging that this week's kidnapping of an Israeli soldier and the killing of two others was a Hamas plot from day one. Several newspapers are reporting that the attack and kidnapping were carried out by Ahmed Jaabari, the commander of the Hamas military wing who takes his orders from Khaled Mashal, the senior Hamas leader based in Damascus, Syria.

According to the Associated Press, two senior aids to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas said that Mashal gave the green light for the operation. This is a stinging indictment of the Syrian regime's participation in global terror and a brutal reminder about Hamas.

I and others have called the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority a terrorist organization. Congress recently passed a bill banning any assistance to the Palestinian Authority until it ends terror, recognizes Israel, and abides by all agreements signed by the Palestinian Authority. But most of all, with this terrorist attack, Hamas has once again shown its true stripes. It remains the murderous terrorist group which carried out scores of suicide bombings in the 1990s.

Our U.S. Ambassador Jones said yesterday, "The problem is in Damascus and that is where we should focus the world's attention." This is the key point. The Syrian Government continues to play host to a range of terrorist groups, including Hamas. And now, one of the outlaws in Damascus has kidnapped an Israeli soldier.

As the author of the Syria Accountability Act and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, I demand that the government of Syria close the terrorist bases in its country and bring the murderer Khaled Mashal to justice. And I ask President Bush to impose the remaining sanctions of the Syria Accountability Act which it has not yet imposed.

CONGRATULATING COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPION OREGON STATE BEAVERS

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, we deal with such serious topics in this House of Representatives, and so I want to bring to the attention of this House and this

Nation a very happy topic. I rise to congratulate the Oregon State University Beavers on winning the College World Series baseball tournament.

This is indeed a Beaver Nation. After taking on UCLA, Stanford, Arizona, and USC, all sunny States, we in the rainy Northwest, with a team of kids from smaller communities all around the State, have successfully won a world championship. This is probably the first world championship since the Portland Trail Blazers won the NBA championship in 1977.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SALMON FISHING SEASON A DISASTER

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to replace Mr. LARSON.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I had an extraordinary meeting with the head of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Mr. Lautenbacher, and his deputy, Mr. Hogarth. They met with six Members of Congress representing the west coast fishers in the United States, particularly from Oregon down into California.

These gentlemen met with us so we could ask them to ask, in all sincerity, when they are going to declare the salmon fishing season, which has been essentially closed by their agency, a disaster. Their answer was: never. Or maybe next year.

It was an extraordinary meeting. They said that because they allowed an extraordinarily limited season, that is, a fisherman can go out and catch up to 75 salmon, which won't quite pay for the fuel to leave the dock, on a few occasions during the year, that they can't anticipate whether or not it will be a disaster for those folks.

Now, the deputy was a little more honest, and he admitted that it was even worse than they thought. No one is fishing. No one is going out with fuel prices like this, and, in fact, there is virtually no activity. But they thought that people might go out. Maybe the price of fish will go way up. I said, to what, a hundred dollars a pound? What

are we talking about? What would induce people to go out into the ocean and catch 75 salmon, a commercial fishing boat? They couldn't answer that.

So we said, your regional counsel recommended a disaster declaration, and you sent it back. When will you process that? They said, oh, well, we have already sent it back again. We said, why did you send it back? They said, well, because they made a recommendation of a disaster.

The people who manage this agency in the region recognized the disaster. They recommended a disaster declaration to the national bureaucrats. The national bureaucrats said, no, you can't do that. They sent it back. They had to strip out their recommendation and then they sent it back and they said, okay.

So when are you going to process all the facts on which they made that determination? They said, not until February. Well, why not until next February? Because people might go out and catch 75 fish, and that might make a difference in whether or not there is a disaster.

It is extraordinary tortured logic. You can't get there from here. So we said, how about you just issue the declaration of a disaster. No, their lawyers say they can't do that. I asked to see the legal opinion. They said, no, they couldn't show me the legal opinion; that they couldn't do that.

We asked to see the recommendation from the regional people about the disaster, and they said, no, you can't have that. You are only Members of Congress representing these people. You can't have those documents because we haven't made a decision yet. When are you going to make a decision? When it is too late for the fishers and their families. When they have already gone bankrupt. When they have already lost their boats. That is next winter when they might get around to making a decision about this year's season.

So, then, I said, okay, how about this: why don't you just close down this lame season that you have created, this 75-fish limit on a few days; just close it down, declare a disaster, and get some assistance to the fishers? They said, oh, no, they couldn't do that because they have already made a decision that is based on certain documents, and they couldn't go back on that. I said, just declare an emergency. No, they are not going to do that.

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They are getting orders from somewhere higher up in this administration that is embarrassed, embarrassed about the politics, embarrassed that 4 years ago, to make hay in an election year, they diverted water from irrigation, from the river to irrigation. They got headlines. They made great political hay with us with it. Now if they declare a disaster on the returning salmon, the class of that year, they are essentially admitting that they impacted that.